

Creighton University. They are Lloyd Guy, Holly Huddleston, Marta Ferguson, Ben Drickey, and Gordan Tonthat. Would you please rise to be recognized and welcomed to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to support Senator Withem's amendment, although I would like to see the age probably a little lower because I think it would allow for some additional flexibility. I think with the Withem amendment what you have is a provision to LB 100 that says for those folks who are now sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen, we are going to have a little bit of a test, I guess, if nothing else, to determine whether or not you're at the proper point in your life to leave public education, as opposed to the current law which says up until sixteen. I mean I think you need to put something like the Withem amendment into the bill because I just can relate back to my days in school, and it wouldn't have taken more than two weeks for me to have everybody concurring that it was time to show me the door. So I can see that working a number of different ways. Some of the other things I think that need to be addressed, not in the Withem amendment, but in the Bohlke-Byars amendment are the issue of consensus that Senator Byars brought up, and I know that the...I think the operative language in the amendment is "deem it is in the best interest of the student" and I think that is, you know, not necessarily a consensus in terms of how the decision is made. I think that could very likely be tightened up a little bit as well. Because use the example of a problem student who is a young Tim Hall who is causing all kinds of trouble, and, you know, the principal, the administrator, the counselor may think that, yeah, in our best interest, that we may deem it appropriate, and the parent is also, or legal guardian, is tired of dealing with this problem person, saying that, fine, I want them out of there. I am getting so much pressure from the administration at school that, fine, if that is the decision to put him out, let's put him out. I know that is not the intent of what LB 100 is all about, but that could be, I guess, a repercussion from it, and I think that we need to make it clear that that is not the intent. That the purpose behind it is to, hopefully, keep kids in school as long as it is in their best interest and that solely is the only purpose behind what the bill is trying to do. With that, I would urge the body to support Senator Withem's amendment, and when it is adopted, I will support the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Withem, you